

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE III, OF THE
DURHAM CITY CODE CAPTIONED “PASSENGER VEHICLES FOR
HIRE” TO ALLOW TAXICABS TO INSTALL A ROOFTOP DEVICE**

Whereas, pursuant to G.S §160A-304 a city may by ordinance license and regulate vehicles operated for hire in the city;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF DURHAM:**

Section 1. Section 50-81 of the Durham City Code captioned “**Definitions**” is amended by adding the following definition:

Rooftop device means a piece of equipment attached to the roof of a taxicab as described in Section 50-298 that may contain messages, signs, advertisements, notices, and other communications.

Section 2: Chapter 50, Article III, Division 7 of the Durham City Code is amended by adding Section 50-298 to read as follows:

“Section 50-298. Rooftop device.

(a) No passenger vehicle for hire, except a taxicab, shall display a rooftop device. A taxicab may display a rooftop device as allowed in subsection (b).

(b) Each taxicab may display one rooftop device. The rooftop device may be attached only on the top of the vehicle roof. All rooftop devices must be approved by the inspector prior to mounting. In reviewing rooftop devices for approval, the inspector shall approve only those rooftop devices that:

- (1) Do not obscure any required vehicle markings or lights.
- (2) Do not add more than 18 inches to the overall height of the vehicle.
- (3) Do not extend beyond the top of the front windshield, the rear window, or either of the sides of the vehicle
- (4) Are securely attached to the roof of the vehicle and are stationary.
- (5) Do not block exits such as doors and windows or obstruct opening of trunk or hatch.

(c) No messages, signs, advertisements, notices, or other communications shall be displayed on the inside or outside of any taxicab except for the rooftop device and except for items authorized by law, ordinance or manufacturer specifications (e.g., car or car part manufacturer’s trademark or logo).

(d) No rooftop device shall blink, chase, flash, move, rotate, revolve, flutter, spin, or be animated. No rooftop device shall include or involve animated, blinking, chasing, flashing, or moving effects. Without limiting the foregoing provisions of this subsection, no rooftop device shall include pennants, propeller discs, flags, banners, inflated devices, balloons, or sign faces that change to show different images or messages.”

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.
